(e) At present there is no proposal under consideration of Central Government to undertake artificial rain operations in Saurashtra and north-Gujarat.

Rain making experiment in Gujarat

†1483. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Times of India on 16th July, 1986 captioned 'Rain making experiments in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any positive results have been achieved by the experiments; and

(d) whether such experiments are also likely to be conducted in the States of Bihar and Orissa, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been carrying out cloud seeding operations in different areas of Gujarat since middle of July, 1986. However, the results have not been very encouraging.

(d) There is no proposal at present to undertake artificial rain making experiments in the States of Bihar and Orissa.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1137, transferred from the 1st August, 1986.

Losses incurred in the implementation of some Public Sector Projects

†1484. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the "Hindustan Times" of the 31st March, 1986 to the effect that the public exchequer has incurred a loss of about Rs. 18,000 crores in the implementation of several public sector projects: if so, what are the facts in this regard and the project-wise break-up of the losses and also what are the reasons for such losses in each case; and

(b) by how much each 'key sector' project has been delayed and its estimated impact on the health of other projects?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes. Sir; the Press report mentioned by the Hon. Members appears to be based on the information furnished by me in reply to Starred Question No. 249 by Shri K. Ramamurthy answered on 12-3-1986 in the Lok Sabha. The amount of Rs. 18351 crores cannot, however, be termed as loss to the public exchequer, it represents costs escalation of delayed projects which is attributable to a number of reasons including inflation in costs over time.

(b) The extent of delay in 134 projects costing above Rs. 20 crores as on 31-3-1986 is indicated. Sector wise, in the enclosed statement. (See Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1181, transferred from the 4th August 1986.

87). Estimate of impact on the health of other projects is not available.

Setting up of Sugar Research Centre in Andhra Pradesh

1485. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Sugar Research Centres are located in the Northern and Western regions of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government are planning the setting up of another sugar research and development centre in the Southern region and for this, the Andhra Pradesh Government have proposed certain sites; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in setting up of the proposed sugar Research and Development Centre for the Southern Region in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir. However, the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur and the Deccan Sugar Institute, Pune undertake research on problems of interest to the sugar industry in addition to their main function of providing training in sugar technology and allied branches.

(b) and (c) No provision has been made in the 7th Plan for setting up of a new sugar institute. Some of the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh have indicated the facilities available in their areas for setting up of a sugar institute. But no decision has been taken by Government to set up a new sugar institute during the 7th Plan.

Kidnapping of Indian Nationals by Pakistan Forces in Jammu Area

1486. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Army, or its border force are using various tactics to secure the release of two Pak nationals arrested on various charges of espionage in the Jammu area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on June 23, 1986, Pakistan armed intruders tried to kidnap some Indian Nationals and succeeded in dragging one Indian farmer, Babu Ram, from the Pargwal area of Akhnoor Sector of Jammu and whether some months back, Pakistanis kidnapped a Harijan boy, Chuni Lal, from the same area; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that both these Indians are under arrest in Pakistan, if so, what steps have been taken to secure their release from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The facts are being ascertained.

Development of sophisticated ways to Identify Criminals

1487. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Eyeing criminals with a system" appearing in the Indian Express of 15th July, 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the sophisticated system developed by Government to identify criminals; and

(c) how the Central Government propose to introduce this system in the States?